

Section I Acronyms and Definitions

Agrarian: Relating to agriculture.

Angle of repose: The maximum slope or angle at which a material, such as soil or loose rock, remains stable (stable angle).

Apparentness: Degree of visibility; open to view

Berm: A mound of earth

Best Management Practice (BMP): An action approved by law or policy, generally representing the preferred way to achieve a desired result.

bhp: Brake horsepower, which is the measure of an engine's horsepower without the loss in power caused by the gearbox, generator, differential, water pump and other auxiliaries. The prefix "brake" refers to where the power is measured.

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

BMP: Best Management Practices

CAD: Computer-aided design

Color: An aspect of the appearance of objects and light sources; described in terms of hue, lightness, and saturation for objects and described in terms of hue, brightness, and saturation for light sources

Contour: An undulating form of surface texture, especially referring to slopes.

Contouring: Modification of a surface to mimic the surrounding contours found in the native landscape.

Deciduous vegetation: Plant life which sheds its leaves seasonally, to avoid the effects of adverse weather conditions.

DEM: Digital Elevation Model

Drivater®: A gel-type soil additive product that releases water over a period of time.

Equipment: Implements used in an operation or activity; in this case oil and gas exploration, production, and/or delivery.

Fabric MSE (mechanically stabilized earth): An artificial slope created by stacking layers of earth wrapped in landscape fabric.

Facility: Something that is built, installed, or established to serve a particular purpose; in this case, for oil and gas exploration, production, and/or delivery.

Far Ground: In La Plata County, the area seen in the zone greater than 1,320 feet from the viewer.

Feathering: The process of creating a natural appearance to the area between a human-caused disturbance and the existing natural landscape, both by undulating the line between the cleared and the vegetated areas and by randomly reducing the density of the existing vegetation along the edge zone to give the appearance of a natural clearing.

FGD: Federal Geographic Data

Form: The shape and structure of an object as distinguished from its material composition.

Hydro-ax: A hydraulic machine used to cut down and chip woody vegetation on site, leaving the chip as a mulch on the ground.

GIS: Geographic Information Systems

GPS: Global Positioning System

Inoculant: A seed treatment medium that contains the symbiotic rhizobial bacteria to capture nitrogen when in contact with legume roots.

Key Observation Point (KOP): A location designated for review of visual mitigation measures, meant to represent a perspective of high sensitivity.

Landscape: A portion of territory that can be viewed at one time from one place.

Land cover types: Usually a vegetation community found within a geographic region (Those found in La Plata County are described in the Background section of the Introduction).

LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging Line): An optical remote sensing technology which measures properties of scattered light to find range and/or other information of a distant target. The prevalent method to determine distance to an object or surface is to use laser pulses.

Lithic Mulch: A protective covering utilizing impermeable materials that are native to a particular site (e.g., stone or wood) to prevent erosion, reduce evaporation, and direct moisture to specific zones along its edges.

Middle Ground: In La Plata County, the area seen in the zone 660 to 1,320 feet from the viewer.

MSE: Mechanically Stabilized Earth

Mulch: Any substance spread or allowed to remain on the soil surface to conserve soil moisture and shield soil particles from erosive forces such as raindrops, runoff, and wind. (See also *Lithic Mulch* above.)

Native: Those species originating naturally in a particular region, also know as indigenous.

Native species: Species that are found growing naturally in a particular place or vicinity, sustained without human intervention.

Natural: Being in accordance with or determined by nature.

Naturalize: To bring into conformity with nature, to cause to become established as if native.

Near Ground: In La Plata County, the area seen in the zone from 0 to 660 feet from the viewer.

NRCS: National Resources Conservation Service

Organic: Of, relating to, or derived from living organisms.

Pumpjack: Above-ground drive for a submersible pump in a borehole, stroking in a regular rhythm to retrieve a petroleum mixture from underground reserves.

Riparian: Of, on, or relating to the banks of a natural course of water.

USFS: United States Forest Service

USDOT: United States Department of Transportation

Viewshed: The portion of a landscape seen from a specific observation point